

# Chicago Eagle.

"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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## LOEFFLER'S GRAFT!

**The Notorious Chicago City Clerk Is Charged with "Lobbying" for Telephone Tunnel Ordinance.**

**Recalls Peculiar Incident When Important Amendments Were Said to Be Omitted from Records.**

**Grand Jury May Be Called on to Investigate the Conduct of This Office.**

**Illinois Telephone and Telegraph Company Constructs Enormous Tunnel Under Franchise to Lay Wires.**

**Seeks Supplemental Ordinance Increasing Scope of Power—If Passed, State's Attorney May Investigate.**

Once again The Eagle asserts that it is the duty of the Grand Jury, with the assistance of the State's Attorney, to investigate the conduct of the City Clerk's office.

This time the investigation could be commenced with prospects of immediate beneficial results for the public, with the now celebrated telephone tunnel deal.

This deal (not to use a stronger term) is one of the most extraordinary in the history of the Chicago City Council even in the most picturesque days of that body.

Of this, however, more anon. The Eagle first desires to call attention to the part played by the City Clerk's office in connection with the affair in question.

It will be remembered that several weeks ago there was a great ado over the fact that some very important amendments to the company's ordinance were barely referred to in the records instead of being printed in full, and when questioned about the matter City Clerk "Billie" Loeffler pertinently replied that he did not consider it necessary to incorporate every trifle in the Council records, or words to that effect.

The Eagle at that time said the Clerk's office should be investigated and pointed out that the action of this department of the city's public service in connection with this extraordinary deal has been exceedingly peculiar.

Now, however, the charge has been openly made that City Clerk "Billie" Loeffler himself is actually engaged in lobbying for the passage of a new ordinance which will give to this private corporation the right to own, occupy and operate the enormous space under the streets of Chicago which it has seized and converted into tunnels to the exclusion of the public and the taxpayers who constructed and who own the streets; a gift of such enormous value that the question naturally arises, What can be the influence which operates to the favorable consideration of our City Fathers of such a proposition, and to induce the City Clerk to lobby for it? Upon this point The Eagle desires to quote from the Chicago American. It says in its morning edition of June 3:

"The American would especially warn the Aldermen in this connection to beware of City Clerk Loeffler, who is one of the most active and effective workers for this ordinance. Mr. Loeffler, it must be admitted, is a very affable and accommodating individual. His good will is often a very good thing to have by one who is much about the City Hall. But Mr. Loeffler has a way of getting innocent and obliging Aldermen to support measures that later cause them trouble."

"Therefore, when Mr. Loeffler, instead of taking you up into a high mountain, takes you off into a dark corner of the City Hall and proceeds to tell you what a fine thing it would be if you would only be accommodating and vote for this ordinance, you will save yourself much future embarrassment by saying to him promptly: 'Get thee behind me, Loeffler.'"

Again The Eagle suggests that the Grand Jury investigate the conduct of the City Clerk's office, and find out, among other things, by what right an officer of the City Council, and ex-officio reading clerk of that body, under-

takes to lobby for the passage of a pending measure.

It could also inquire if the City Clerk himself ever calls the roll of the City Council on the passage of the important ordinances, and if so, whether he would consider it proper to call the roll on one for which he has lobbied? Further, it might be well to find out whether the Council record is ever read or simply confirmed in a perfunctory manner on motion of some Alderman. An inquiry along these lines would undoubtedly be highly interesting.

The history of the Illinois Telephone and Telegraph enterprise, from the passage of the original ordinance up to date, is also a most peculiar one, and would, we believe, prove not only interesting, but productive of beneficial results for the taxpayers of Chicago if properly and thoroughly investigated by the inquisitorial body of Cook County.

In its original form it was, as our contemporary, the American, says, a simple franchise to put in a competing telephone system.

When, some months after the passage of the so-called Illinois Telephone and Telegraph ordinance, mysterious looking structures appeared upon the sidewalks and wagon loads of rubble crushed stone and similar material began to be daily poured down dark shafts opening into caverns under the streets, the public began to wonder what was up. Tons upon tons of this stuff were poured down into these cavernous openings day after day, until people began to ask each other if the city or somebody else was constructing an underground boulevard throughout the city. Nobody seemed to know, and nobody seemed to care very much.

It finally leaked out that the mysterious work was being carried out by the Illinois Telephone and Telegraph Company, under a simple franchise which allowed the company to install a telephone system and nothing more.

Then it was discovered that the company, instead of putting in a conduit sufficient to convey its wires to its customers had constructed an enormous system of tunnels large enough almost to run a street car service through.

Some enterprising Aldermen discovered the scope and extent of the work that was being carried on under the guise of a simple telephone ordinance and raised a hue and cry over it. But somehow it has all been smothered up or smoothed over so that the public has apparently been hypnotized into acquiescence into the appropriation of an enormous amount of the space under the streets of the city and the construction of a tremendous subway system of incalculable value, not one word about which was mentioned in the ordinance or franchise under which the work is being done.

Not only has all this been accomplished, but on top of the whole thing it is now coolly proposed to pass another ordinance authorizing the Illinois Telephone and Telegraph Company to utilize this subway system, constructed without authority of law, for the transportation of parcels, freight, and other matters by means of pneumatic tubes and other contrivances. It is proposed that ex-

press systems through them will be provided for and even the United States mails, it is alleged, may be delivered through them, so by virtue of the supplementary ordinance, if it should pass, this institution which began operations as a telephone company will wind up as an express company, a freight line, a branch of the United States mails, and heaven knows what not, and this is the ordinance for which, it is charged, our precious City Clerk is now engaged in lobbying.

But there is no doubt that this time there will be "something doing" if the telephone tunnel outrage is perpetrated. This time the Grand Jury should and will be appealed to, and if State's Attorney Deneen displays anything like his usual perspicacity, keenness and desire to subserve the ends of justice, some city officials may find it highly unpleasant.

The Grand Jury should begin with the City Clerk's office. It should go into the manner in which the general business of that office is being conducted, and particularly the manner in which the Council records are being kept. The recent peculiar incident in connection with the passage of certain important amendments to the ordinance in question, should also be gone into, and the failure of the records to properly set out in full these vitally important amendments should be carefully investigated. Then the members of the City Council could be investigated. The full history of this extraordinary deal would make exceedingly interesting reading from start to finish for the public. It is to be hoped that the Grand Jury will not fail to take the matter up at once, and it is hoped, above all, that the conduct of the City Clerk's office will be investigated first.

In the Loeffler column of one of our contemporaries occurs the following strange and unintelligible item of news concerning the complaint which has been made regarding the alleged interference of the police in the Second Ward primaries:

Mayor Harrison remarked: "I have sent the list of men who they said were on the payrolls and doing nothing but play politics to Commissioner Block, with instructions they must be told to confine their politics to hours they are not working for the city."

"As for O'Brien, he is, as they said, a good officer, and when the opportunity comes I will make him a captain regardless of politics."

It is refreshing to hear the Mayor discussing his orders to the men "who do nothing but play politics" to "confine their politics to hours when they are not working for the city." According to the complaint discussed by the matter, that would be all the time. What a joker the Mayor is to be sure.

But not less interesting and extraordinary is the Mayor's declaration that he "will make a captain out of Police Lieutenant O'Brien." While we have no doubt Lieutenant O'Brien is deserving of promotion, The Eagle cannot help asking Mayor Harrison where does the Civil Service Commission come in, and how about Chief O'Neill; won't he be consulted at all in the matter? But perhaps the Mayor only forgot himself for a fleeting moment and simply let the cat out of the bag concerning these police promotions.

President Powers and Secretary Burke, of the County Democracy, expressed the determination at the time the new departure in the policy of the club was decided upon to make of the County Democracy the great and most powerful political organization in the West. That they have come pretty near accomplishing this object the numerical strength, the condition of organization and the standing generally of the County Democracy to-day, compared with what it was six months ago, is proof enough, if proof were needed. Both of these gentlemen are known to be men of their words in politics. When they say they are about to do something in the line of political agitation or organization, they generally know just what they are talking about and invariably go about bringing out results in the right way.

Everybody who knew anything about men and affairs in the local political field knew that it was no idle boast which was then uttered by Messrs. Powers and Burke, and this year's picnic will demonstrate beyond a doubt that they have succeeded in converting the famous marching club into a political organization that must be reckoned with in all future Democratic campaigns in Chicago, Cook County and the State of Illinois.

Mayor Harrison has ordered his advisory committee to recommend but three names for the various offices to be filled by the Democratic County Convention. Probably that is the number that has done business with his Side Partner Loeffler.

Harrison is said to be a stockholder in the telephone monopoly. Watch him!

One of the mysteries of the City Hall is the manner in which all ordinances aimed at the telephone monopoly are "smothered in committee." The mystery will soon be solved.

Every member of the Legislature elected this year should be pledged to put an end to the telephone extortion.

The strike may be settled, but the people will settle Harrison next spring. The blood shed on the streets...

nesday will finish his official career and it ought to.

The telephone monopoly owns a majority of the Aldermen. Mark them!

Of course Mayor Harrison had to take his side partner, "Billie" Loeffler, with him to settle the strike.

When the distinguished visiting orators take the platform to address the County Democracy they will witness the rare sight of a great political organization kept together and maintained not by the cohesive power of public plunder, not by a lively sense of political favors to come, nor for the purposes of spoils or payroll, but for the purpose of inducing all the voters of the Democratic party to take a hand in the selection of delegates to the convention which shall name the party's candidates for office, and thus not only "giving the people a chance," but actually forcing the people to take a hand in the nomination of the party's candidates for the public offices and the handling of the affairs of county and of State. Such a sight is indeed rare, and will, we believe, be duly appreciated by the distinguished gentlemen who will address the stalwart Democracy of Cook County on this important and auspicious occasion.

With a great flourish of trumpets the Executive Committee of the general Advisory Committee of "silk stockings" met the other day and adopted a platform for the Democratic county convention which meets on June 14. There is only one way by which this "suggestive" platform should be allowed to come before the convention, and that is in the regular parliamentary way, through the hands of a regularly elected delegation and afterwards through the Committee on Resolutions, to which it should be referred. There are some suggestions contained in the "platform" which would no doubt have been offered in the convention had the Advisory Committee never met and "fingulated," and there is also some buncombe which should find its way to the waste basket in the Committee on Resolutions.

The "findings" of the Advisory Committee are, however, more fully discussed elsewhere in this edition of The Eagle.

If the Democratic party wants to adopt a really popular plank in its platform—one that will catch votes by the thousand, let it declare in convention assembled against the conventual caucus, and let the convention act up to it. A Democratic convention without a preliminary "caucus" will be a unique as well as a welcome innovation in Cook County politics. The County Democracy should demand the abolition of caucus dictation next Sunday, and at its annual picnic in the name of all the

## BLOW AT PROSPERITY.

**Attack by Newspapers and Demagogues Strikes at the Packing Industry, Which Made Chicago.**

**If Successful Will Only Result in Throwing Hundreds of Thousands Out of Employment.**

**The Public Will Gain Nothing but Higher Prices and Miserably Inadequate Meat Supplies.**

**Scarcity of Corn and Hay and Not Packers' Combine Cause of Present Increase.**

**Teamsters' Union Trouble Now Fortunately Settled Through Arbitration and Satisfactory Concessions All Around.**

What between the federal government authorities and the newspapers there seems to be a well-defined policy to destroy the great packing industries of Chicago.

The newspapers and the demagogues who are engaged in abusing the packers just now are doing the country (and particularly this city) more harm than all the rest of its enemies put together.

The main hue and cry raised against the great industries which have made Chicago what it is, is the high price for meats.

Now, any fair, unbiased judge of the situation will admit that the packers are not primarily responsible for this. High prices for corn and cereals cause high prices for cattle.

It is a poor rule that won't work both ways, and the wave of prosperity which has forced up the price of feeding stuffs also must naturally have the effect of forcing up the price of products which rely upon such feeding stuffs. But there are causes other than the prosperous times responsible for the enormous increase in the price of corn. Continued drought during the past few years in the corn and hay producing districts have occasioned such scarcity in both corn and hay as to make the feeding and fattening of cattle for the market an exceedingly costly business. There has been much talk in this connection, by the way, about removing the tariff on foreign meat as a panacea for this condition. Serious thinkers claim that this would have directly the opposite effect. It would result in simply driving the native cattle raiser out of business, because to bring in ruinous foreign competition right on top of an extraordinary scarcity in cattle food stuffs could have no other effect.

This would leave the country at the mercy of the foreign meat producers of other countries.

Thus it can be easily seen why the price of meat is high just now. It is because the price of cattle is high. The reason the price of cattle is so much higher than heretofore is because it costs so much more to raise cattle. The reason it costs so much more to raise cattle is because food stuffs for cattle are so scarce. The reason cattle food stuffs are scarce is because of the drought. The drought is an act of Providence—and there you are.

Yet the great packing industries are to be persecuted and harried because they have been forced to combine for their own protection against conditions for which Providence alone is primarily responsible.

Suppose they are not allowed to transact their business in their own way? What good will result therefrom?

We confess we can see nothing but harm. The packers will not continue to do business at continual and heavy loss. They will go out of business, either temporarily or permanently. What would be the result? We would have thousands of heads of families thrown out of employment all over the country and right here in Chicago.

The amount of employment thus destroyed or done away with can hardly be estimated, owing to the innumerable ramifications of the business. Suffice it to say that it would throw hundreds

work. Meantime it is asked, what good would accrue to the general public if the packers went out of business? Nearly everybody of sense agrees in the opinion that instead of good, the result would be simply disastrous. We would have to return to the old crude, backwoods way of doing business. Every butcher would have to do his own buying and slaughtering. We would have small slaughter houses scattered all over the city, little places ill equipped and more than likely to become dangerous nuisances. Does anybody think that with their crude arrangements such places or markets could supply meat at as reasonable prices as if the great packing houses, with their vast plants and accommodations, were handling the supply. And as for the quality of the meats with which the public would be supplied through innumerable little combined butcher and slaughtering houses, the least said is soonest mended.

Democrats talk of the following lawyers for judicial candidates: Edward O. Brown, William P. Black, Donald L. Morrill, William Proffitt, D. G. Ramsay, Clayton E. Crafts, P. McHugh, George S. Foster, John P. McGoorty, Daniel J. McMahon, Austin O. Sexton, M. L. Thackaberry, Andrew J. Ryan, Charles Werno, Edgar Bronson Tolman, Gustave J. Tatge, Miles J. Devine, Jeremiah B. O'Connell, Robert Redfield, George Mills Rogers, William Howard Fitzgerald, Granville W. Browning, Sydney Stein, James C. Dooley, M. A. La Buy, Simeon P. Shope, H. Perkins, Sigmund Zelsler, John F. Waters, Morris St. P. Thomas.

Of course the new smoke ordinance will be signed by Mayor Harrison. If for no other reason, because it enters to one of his faddisms—a multiplicity of bureaus. To the public, however, it would seem as if it really amounted to nothing more than that which it seeks to eradicate. The central idea of the ordinance is supervision of new buildings with a view to the general installation of smoke-consuming plants. The idea of abolishing the smoke nuisance produced by plants of buildings now erected, by superintending those of buildings now in course of erection is amusing.

As for the "bureau," everybody knows that if the present able and painstaking smoke inspector had not had his staff cut out by the last appropriation bill, something practical could be done right along in the direction of at least reducing the nuisance to a minimum.

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Sigmund Zelsler's nomination for either the Circuit or Superior Court bench seems to be assured. He would undoubtedly be one of the strongest candidates on the ticket, and it is almost certain that he would be elected.

Did you ever do any business with L. H. Manson & Co. of the Board of Trade?